

CEO E-Briefing

A weekly report to City Council and the community

May 25, 2012

No. 33



CEO's Message



John Cook tells his story to the media.

City, Churches Consortium team up to help homeless

The Reconnections program—a joint effort between the City and the Churches Consortium Costa Mesa—recently reunited two local homeless men with their out-of-state families.

John Cook, a 40-year-old (and former Nordstrom employee) who had been homeless for about three years, received a flight to his brother's home in the Denver area (courtesy of the Consortium). Scott Mooney, 49, received an airplane ticket from The Lighthouse church so he could be reunited with his sister in Indiana. Scott already has a seasonal job, working 40 to 60 hours per week in a barbecue factory.

The Reconnections program earned news coverage on several TV stations last week, including a long piece on ABC Channel 7 that you can view [here](#).

Reconnections—a product of the Homeless Task Force and its successor, the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force—is part of a multi-pronged, carrot-and-stick approach to reduce the homeless population in Costa Mesa and its associated problems.

On Thursday, demolition will begin on the picnic structure in Lions Park, another proactive move to make the area most hospitable to families, especially children. Earlier this month, the City removed the railing—to which the homeless locked their possessions and bikes—in front of the library in Lions Park.

The Neighborhood Improvement Task Force meets weekly to keep the momentum going. We'll keep you updated on its progress.

Tom Hatch, chief executive officer, City of Costa Mesa



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Comments or suggestions, please contact
william.lobdell@costamesaca.gov

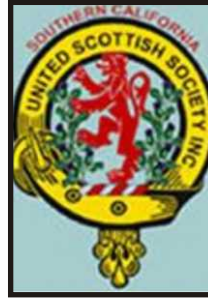


City of Costa Mesa



Costa Mesa City Hall

Community Calendar



WEDNESDAY MAY 23: The Costa Mesa Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda can be found [here](#) when available.

Support Girls Inc. at Ruby's in Costa Mesa! Come dine at Ruby's, 428 East 17th St. today, and the restaurant will give back 20% of all food and non-alcoholic beverage sales to Girls Inc.

THURSDAY MAY 24: Costa Mesa Library Foundation will present the second of three workshops: "Creating Characters" and "Finding an Agent" at the 2012 Beginning Writers Workshop at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Ave. The workshop, which costs \$25, will begin at 7 p.m. Register online [here](#).

The City Council will hold a special study session at 4:30 p.m. to hear presentations on the 2012-13 fiscal year budget and view different entry monuments at the end of the Costa Mesa Freeway, welcoming travelers to Costa Mesa. An agenda can be found [here](#) when available.

SATURDAY May 26: Scotsfest 2012, Southern California's largest Celtic festival, will return with entertainment, music, bagpipes, athletic competitions, highland dancing, sheep-herding demonstrations, vendors and more. It will take place Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the OC Fair & Event Center. One-day general admission is \$18; two-day general admission is \$25. For more information click [here](#).

The SoCo Farmers Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SoCo Collection shopping center at 3315 Hyland Ave.

The Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries Bookstore behind the Mesa Verde Library will be closed May 26 and 27 and open again May 29. The Friends Bookstore at the Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library will be open on its regular schedule, except on May 28 when the library is closed.

MONDAY May 28: City Hall will be closed on Memorial Day.

TUESDAY May 29: A Special City Council Study Session will begin at 4:30 p.m. with presentations on the 2012-23 fiscal year budget. An agenda can be found [here](#) when available.

At the Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library, the Mystery Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room to discuss "Poppy Done to Death" by Charlaine Harris. Copies of the book are available at the checkout desk.

WEDNESDAY May 30: The Mesa Verde Library, 2969 Mesa Verde Drive, will hold a Patrons' Appreciation Day to celebrate and thank their loyal patrons. The public is invited to drop by between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. to chat and share light refreshments with library staff.

All community members interested in finding ways to honor Costa Mesa's military personnel are welcome to attend the Military Affairs Team meeting at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall's Conference Room 1A. The team will discuss ways to enhance the city's support of its adopted battalion, the I/5 Marines, as well as looking for other ways to reach out to honor current and past military personnel. For additional information please contact Dan Baker at (714) 754-5156.

Support Girls Inc. at Ruby's in Costa Mesa! Come dine at Ruby's, 428 East 17th St. today, and the restaurant will give back 20% of all food and non-alcoholic beverage sales to Girls Inc.

Community Calendar (Continued)



THURSDAY May 31: Orange County Health Care Agency, Health Disaster OC will present "2012 Health Preparedness Summit Risky Business" from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. For more information go to: <http://HealthDisasterOC.org/registration/2012Summit>

FRIDAY June 1: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Festival 2012 will present **Baker Street Bash** for the whole family starting at 3 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There will be rides, games, food, bingo, dancing, and more!

The 65th annual Costa Mesa Fish Fry migrates to Fairview Park to continue this uniquely Costa Mesa tradition and give it a new twist as the Fish Fry. The event runs through Sunday, June 3. (Friday night is the carnival only). Admission is free. Click [here](#) for more information.

SATURDAY June 2: The Costa Mesa Senior Center will help you get the junk out of your trunk. Fill your car's trunk with items you want to sell and drive over to the senior center and sell them. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and a parking space rents for \$10 for center members and \$15 for non-members. Shoppers are free. For more information, call (949) 645-2356.

The city will have dumpsters available from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the Westside for residents to throw away large items such as couches, mattresses and tables. The dumpster locations will be at the corners of Shalimar Drive and Placentia Avenue; West 18th Street and Pomona Avenue; Hamilton Street and Maple Avenue; Wilson Street and Maple Avenue; El Camino Drive and La Salle Avenue; Mendoza Drive and Mission Avenue; Monrovia Avenue and Center Street; and mid-block on Coriander Drive.

The 8th annual Bub-A-Que, in honor of the late Estancia grad Brian "Bubba" Kapko, will begin with a tailgate barbecue at Angel Stadium in the late afternoon followed by an Angels game. Your \$40 donation includes one ticket to the game, a commemorative T-shirt, food and drinks. The money raised will go to community organizations, causes and individuals that Brian cared about deeply. Go to <http://briankapko.com/> for more information.

The SoCo Farmers Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SoCo Collection shopping center at 3315 Hyland Ave.

SUNDAY June 3: YAS Ride for Cancer Research is today! YAS riders will spin their hearts out while blasting thousands of calories to raise dollars to fund cutting-edge collaborative cancer research at the City of Hope and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. There are many ways to participate. To learn more go to www.go2yas.com and click YAS-A-THON or call East Costa Mesa YAS at (949) 548-3888.

MONDAY June 4: The Orange County Transportation Agency will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. at Orange Coast College's Student Center to discuss the controversial I-405 Freeway Improvement project. The agency favors an option that will expand the 405 through Costa Mesa by two lanes, moving the freeway closer to homes and causing each bridge over the freeway to be demolished and rebuilt to accommodate the extra lanes.

TUESDAY June 5: Primary Election Day

City Council meets at 6 p.m. in the Council chambers. When ready, the agenda can be found [here](#).

For a complete list of community events, click [here](#).

CEO's Office



Charter information on City's website

The first public hearing for the proposed charter—or local constitution—for the November ballot is scheduled for the City Council's June 5 meeting. And once again, you can submit your suggestions on the proposed charter through the city's website.

Just click on the button on the home page that says, "Weigh-In on City Charter" and you'll be directed to an online form that you can conveniently fill out with your suggestions for the charter. The Charter link on the website also provides the Costa Mesa charter, originally proposed for the June ballot, a charter timeline, and information about charters from the League of California Cities.



City Hall closed for Memorial Day; service at Harbor Lawn Mt. Olive

City Hall will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. The holiday was first established as Decoration Day in 1868, and eventually became Memorial Day in 20th century. In honor and remembrance of those who have died in service to the nation, please join veterans, Mayor Eric Bever and other guests at Harbor Lawn Mt. Olive Memorial Park and Mortuary at 1625 Gisler Ave. on Monday at 11 a.m. for the 56th annual Memorial Day service. The event, hosted by the Freedom Committee of Orange County, will feature musical selections, keynote speaker, military displays and a flyover.

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Development Services

Lighthouse provided beacon of hope (and plane ticket) for homeless man

By Pastor Phil Eyksens

In December 2011, Scott Mooney, 49, walked into the Lighthouse Church at 1885 Anaheim St. in Costa Mesa. Like many of the folks who frequent the Lighthouse, Scott was experiencing homelessness. His was the result of being kicked out of his apartment by a roommate due to an argument.

Scott stood up in the fellowship hall crying that day, as he explained his story to all in attendance. His new home was a concrete pad somewhere in the vicinity of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. As the weeks and months passed by, the Lighthouse (a Churches Consortium member) got to know Scott enough that we came to understand that he had been in regular contact with his sister, who lives in Indiana.

The Lighthouse called his sister on several occasions, and it was determined that she wanted Scott to come live with her in Indiana. The problem with this arrangement was that Scott's sister could not afford any transportation costs to get Scott back there. The Lighthouse reached out to individuals in the community who could help, and five people came forward with donations totaling \$350 to secure Scott a one-way plane ticket and some pocket money for the trip.

Convincing Scott to take the opportunity to have a place to live was not a small effort. First, we had to convince him that all the things he had in a local storage facility should not get in the way of having a place to live (he finally realized this was true). Second, he has lived in the Costa Mesa area most of his life, but again, having a place to live overcame his sentimentality toward Orange County.

Victory for Scott and all of us who were involved came on April 30 at 6:45 a.m. when Scott boarded a plane at John Wayne Airport headed for Indianapolis. And, it should be noted: we at the Lighthouse made sure Scott got a good night's rest, was showered, and all his clothes ran through a washing machine. He was just another passenger on a plane! Hallelujah!

Our efforts at the Lighthouse on Scott's behalf have exceeded our expectations. We received a call from Scott last week. He is working at a barbecue assembly plant in Indiana. It's a temp job, but he is working 40-60 hours a week, saving his money so he can provide a better housing arrangement for himself and his sister.

The icing on the cake in all of this is that Scott is now attending a large church in Indiana who knows his story of how the Lighthouse gave a helping hand, and in turn, that church is giving all concerned in Costa Mesa a great big "thumbs up!"

This story is just one example of how the faith-based community can come together and make a real difference in the lives of people "one at a time."

Phil Eyksens is a pastor at The Lighthouse in Costa Mesa.

Police



Buckle up, save a life, avoid \$142 ticket

If you're thinking about hitting the road without putting on your seatbelt, you better think again. The 2012 start-of-summer "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement mobilization is underway and runs through June 3. Although seatbelt laws are enforced year-round, the Costa Mesa Police Department is joining with other law enforcement officers to help save more lives by strongly enforcing seat belt laws around the clock. Not only can you save your life or the lives of your passengers, you will save yourself a \$142 ticket.

SECRET SPOT



Somewhere in Costa Mesa you might recognize this bit of local scenery.

Hint: Tie a yellow ribbon around the...

To get the whole picture, see page 7.

Police (Continued)

Community Supports John Smith

In recognition of Costa Mesa Police Officer John Smith's tour of duty with the United States Army in Afghanistan, a "yellow ribbon" has been placed on a tree in front of the Police Department (corner of Fair Drive and Vanguard Way).



For the remainder of his deployment, we are taking collections to send John "care packages." The "care packages" will be from his co-workers at Costa Mesa Police Department, other City Departments and those in the community who wish to contribute.

The "care packages" will include his favorite snacks and basic necessities, but also additional goodies he can share with other soldiers in his unit. I am hoping we can send a box monthly. Please refer to the list for ideas.

Please consider sending him a note of goodwill and we will be sure to include them with the packages. If you would like to contribute to the shipping expenses, no donation is too small.

The ribbon will stay on the tree until John returns safely home to us at the end of the year.

The first package will be mailed on Saturday, June 9. Please have your donations in no later than Friday, June 8.

Please keep John in your prayers.

WISH LIST:

Suggestions from John's sister.

- Cookies (Small packs of 6 to 12 cookies per pack)
- Snickers Bars (All sizes)
- Salted mixed nuts
- Jolly Ranchers
- Whoppers
- Red Vines
- Hot Tamales (Candy)
- Beef Jerky
- 5-Hour Energy Shots
- Instant Coffee (Individual packets)
- Tea bags
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Chocolate – if we get box out within next two weeks it "should not melt"
- Any hard candy for troops to distribute to the local kids

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Suggestions for comrades.

- Game books: i.e. Sudoku, crossword puzzles, search-word, etc.
- Toothpaste and brushes
- Dental floss
- Chewing gum
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Foot powder
- Hand sanitizer (Individual sizes)
- Handi-wipes (Individual sizes)
- Hand lotion
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Extra Hotel Toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner & lotions
- Q-tips
- Hand towels
- Shoe Freshener/Deodorant Balls
- Granola bars
- Sunflower seeds
- Canned nuts or individual sizes
- Vienna sausages
- Spam
- Sardines
- Smoked oysters
- Tuna and/or Star-Kist kits
- Chewing Tobacco (Skool/Copenhagen)
- DVDs/Paperback Books (New or used)
- Starbuck's Iced Coffee packets —are favored amongst many out there in the sandbox

Monetary Donations/Checks payable to:

Jeanette Chervony

Community Service Specialist

COSTA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative Services Bureau

Special Investigations Unit

P.O. Box 1200

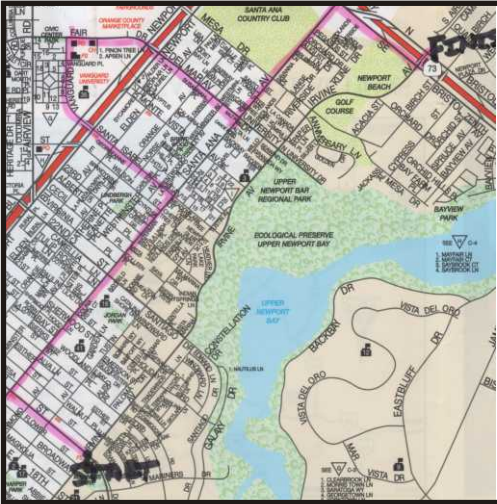
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200

Phone: 714-754-4895

Fax: 714-754-4917

Email: jchervony@costamesaca.gov

Police (Continued)



Special Olympics Torch Run to light up Costa Mesa

More than 20 runners from the Costa Mesa Police Department, Fire Department, Maintenance Yard and City Hall are expected to carry the Special Olympics torch on Thursday, May 31, as it passes through the City.

Public Services



Alternative 3 – Adds one GP and one Express Lane

Existing carpool lane to be combined with the Express Lane providing a dual lane Express Facility, like SR-91

Public can weigh in on 405 Freeway expansion June 4

Costa Mesans will have a chance to tell the Orange County Transportation Authority their thoughts on the proposed 405 Freeway expansion at a public hearing from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 4 at Orange Coast College's Student Center. The OCTA's favored option would be two additional lanes through Costa Mesa and require the demolition and rebuilding of each bridge over the freeway.

SECRET SPOTTED



Answer: Costa Mesa Police Department Tree

FINAL WORDS

Don't monkey around anymore



By Michael Josephson

Many years ago a man came to a village in India to catch monkeys so he could sell them to zoos. The monkeys, however, were very clever and every sort of trap he set failed. A young boy watched the man's pathetic efforts and laughed.

The man said, "If you can catch me a monkey I'll give you \$2." (That was a huge amount of money then.)

The boy went to his home and took a clay pot with a narrow neck. He placed a few nuts around the pot and put lots of nuts inside. He then tied the pot to a tree and he told the man, "We should have a monkey in a few hours. Let's wait in the village. The monkey will call us when he is ready."

Sure enough, a band of monkeys soon discovered the nuts and the pot. One slipped his hand in the pot and grabbed a handful of nuts, but he couldn't pull his hand out of the narrow opening of the pot because his fist was clenched. The monkey panicked and started making loud noises. Some of the other monkeys tried unsuccessfully to pull the pot off his hand.

The boy and the man heard the ruckus, and the boy got a sack. As they approached the monkeys they all ran away except the one with its hand in the pot. The boy grabbed the monkey and the pot. The man was amazed and asked the boy the secret of his monkey trap. "Why was it so easy for the monkey to get his hand in but so hard to get it out?"

The boy laughed and said, "The monkey could have easily got his hand back out and escaped, but he would have had to let go of the nuts in the pot, and he just wasn't willing to let go. They never are."

What lessons can be learned from this story? Do people sometimes trap themselves by holding onto things that they should let go? Do you?

This story is often used to illustrate the power of greed. People get trapped by the trappings of success, by wealth, and by a limitless desire to acquire and hold onto material things even when the things they hold do not give them what they want or need.

But there are other dimensions to the story as well. Many people trap themselves by holding onto negative feelings resentment, anger, and jealousy that both lessen and limit their lives. Like the monkey who derives no pleasure or nourishment from the nuts he holds in his hand, we can derive nothing of value from these negative emotions. Many of us could improve our lives instantly by the simple act of letting go.

Michael Josephson is founder of the Josephson Institute, whose goal is to increase ethical commitment, competence, and practice in all segments of society. You can subscribe to Michael Josephson's free newsletters [here](#).